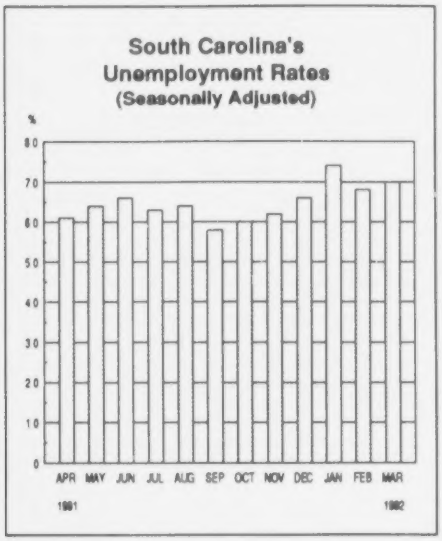
South Carolina's

Employment Trends

MARCH 1992



South Carolina's Employment Trends **is produced monthly by the Labor Market Information (LMI) Division of the South Carolina Employment Security Commission, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor. Please direct questions or comments to the Labor Market Information Division, (803) 737-2660.**

State's Economy Gains Momentum...

South Carolina's economy continued its gradual, but uneven, climb in March as both the number of nonfarm jobs and the number of jobless increased. Slightly over 11,000 jobs were added in March, largely the result of seasonal expansion in construction, trade, and services. On the downside, factory jobs dropped for the third straight month, and unemployment rose slightly after an encouraging drop in February.

Seasonal Expansion Boosts Private Sector...

Increases in travel and tourism activity spurred an employment gain of 10,100 in the private sector. These seasonal gains, however, were less than average for the time of year, reflecting a cautiousness on the part of businesses with the peak tourist season approaching. Trade added 3,800 jobs in March, with most of the increase occurring in eating and drinking places. Services advanced 5,900 as large increases were registered in hotels and lodging places, and amusement and recreation services. Warmer weather and low interest rates led to building activity and workforce increases in construction (+1,200); and finance, insurance, and real estate (+200).

Manufacturing Job Losses Continue...

Manufacturers continued to trim payrolls in March with layoffs and plant closings resulting in a 1,000-job loss. Despite signs of an improving economy, manufacturers seem content to meet production demands with fewer employees. As business picks up, these employers are increasing hours before adding workers, evidenced by the manufacturing workweek, which improved to 41.6 hours in March. Job losses were widespread throughout the industry. Textiles, the state's largest manufacturer, dropped 400 jobs, and food and kindred products decreased 300. Modest gains of 200 were posted in paper products, chemicals, and rubber and miscellaneous plastics.

Education Leads Government Advance...

The addition of substitute teachers, bus drivers, and work-study students resulted in employment gains of 900 and 800, respectively, in state and local government in March. On the other hand, layoffs of civilian personnel at the state's military installations culminated in a 700 loss in federal government. Overall, public sector employment rose by 1,000.

Unemployment Rises To 7.0%...

The state's unemployment rate rose to 7.0% in March after experiencing a sizeable drop to 6.8% in February. Manufacturing job losses along with a lower than normal demand

(continued on page 2)

(continued from page 1)

for seasonal workers contributed to the rise in joblessness. Despite the increase, South Carolina's unemployment rate remained below the national rate of 7.3%.

Outlook...

South Carolina's economy should expand in the coming months as seasonal influences become stronger and overall business activity picks up. The manufacturing employment situation will, however, remain spotty as employers continue to handle new orders through longer workweeks, inventory control and automation. Unemployment will fluctuate depending on the level of layoff activity, but the general trend should be downward.

For your information...

The Employment Security Commission's Labor Market Information Division publishes *Veterans in South Carolina* which includes information on the general veteran population; the characteristics of veterans using the South Carolina Job Service System; and information on female, disabled, and Vietnam era veterans. To receive a copy of this publication, write to the S.C. Employment Security Commission, Labor Market Information Division, P.O. Box 995, Columbia, SC 29202 or call (803) 737-2660.

Civilian Labor Force Summary
March 1992

	Mar. 1992	Feb. 1992	Mar. 1991
United States (seas. adj.)			
Civilian Labor Force	126,590,000	126,287,000	125,250,000
Total Employment	117,348,000	117,043,000	116,834,000
Total Unemployment	9,242,000	9,244,000	8,416,000
Unemployment Rate (%)	7.3	7.3	6.7
South Carolina (seas. adj.)			
Civilian Labor Force	1,746,400	1,773,700	1,730,400
Total Employment	1,624,400	1,652,600	1,624,400
Total Unemployment	122,000	121,100	106,000
Unemployment Rate (%)	7.0	6.8	6.1
Greenville-Spartanburg MSA			
Civilian Labor Force	341,540	344,420	342,590
Total Employment	322,020	324,050	323,710
Total Unemployment	19,520	20,370	18,880
Unemployment Rate (%)	5.7	5.9	5.5
Columbia MSA			
Civilian Labor Force	242,560	243,250	242,630
Total Employment	229,800	230,160	232,790
Total Unemployment	12,760	13,090	9,840
Unemployment Rate (%)	5.3	5.4	4.1
Charleston MSA			
Civilian Labor Force	240,800	241,320	238,340
Total Employment	224,810	225,570	228,150
Total Unemployment	15,990	15,740	10,190
Unemployment Rate (%)	6.6	6.5	4.3

Labor Force and Unemployment for Selected Cities in South Carolina
March 1992

City	Labor Force			Unemployment			Unemployment Rate (%)		
	Mar. 1992	Feb. 1992	Mar. 1991	Mar. 1992	Feb. 1992	Mar. 1991	Mar. 1992	Feb. 1992	Mar. 1991
Anderson	13,510	13,560	13,640	1,210	1,300	1,230	8.9	9.6	9.0
Charleston	39,450	39,530	39,050	2,560	2,530	1,620	6.5	6.4	4.1
Columbia	47,690	47,790	47,410	3,130	3,160	2,270	6.6	6.6	4.8
Florence	16,440	16,570	16,250	1,090	1,150	840	6.6	7.0	5.2
Goose Creek	7,090	7,110	7,000	520	520	330	7.3	7.3	4.7
Greenville	34,580	34,960	34,230	2,390	2,560	1,870	6.9	7.3	5.5
Mt. Pleasant	9,190	9,220	9,210	300	300	190	3.3	3.2	2.1
Myrtle Beach	14,160	13,820	13,110	920	1,210	750	6.5	8.8	5.7
North Charleston	23,890	23,930	23,340	2,390	2,350	1,510	10.0	9.8	6.5
Rock Hill	23,430	23,420	23,000	2,050	1,930	1,700	8.8	8.3	7.4
Spartanburg	23,490	23,610	24,050	1,610	1,590	2,050	6.8	6.7	8.5
Sumter	12,170	12,240	11,540	1,150	1,170	1,160	9.5	9.6	10.1

Labor Force and Unemployment in South Carolina by County and Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)
March 1992

County	Labor Force			Unemployment			Unemployment Rate (%)		
	Mar. 1992	Feb. 1992	Mar. 1991	Mar. 1992	Feb. 1992	Mar. 1991	Mar. 1992	Feb. 1992	Mar. 1991
Abbeville	10,670	10,700	10,780	790	830	890	7.4	7.7	8.3
Aiken	68,060	68,580	67,140	4,000	4,070	3,070	5.9	5.9	4.6
Allendale	5,850	5,920	5,610	610	540	490	10.5	9.1	8.7
Anderson MSA	69,670	69,830	70,310	4,810	5,190	4,890	6.9	7.4	7.0
Bamberg	6,750	6,760	6,810	720	740	780	10.6	10.9	11.5
Barnwell	9,110	9,210	8,950	1,240	1,340	1,290	13.6	14.5	14.4
Beaufort	38,160	38,720	35,690	2,000	2,570	1,410	5.3	6.6	4.0
Berkeley	54,920	55,090	54,330	3,720	3,710	2,360	6.8	6.7	4.3
Calhoun	4,740	4,770	4,650	420	520	410	8.9	10.9	8.8
Charleston	147,510	147,820	145,940	9,830	9,680	6,220	6.7	6.5	4.3
Cherokee	22,890	23,060	23,250	1,610	1,720	1,740	7.0	7.5	7.5
Chester	13,710	14,010	13,940	1,720	2,050	1,880	12.5	14.6	13.5
Chesterfield	20,850	20,730	20,990	1,300	1,290	1,260	6.3	6.2	6.0
Clarendon	11,890	11,980	11,970	1,380	1,520	1,040	11.6	12.7	8.7
Colleton	18,420	18,680	18,090	1,610	1,780	1,460	8.7	9.6	8.1
Darlington	29,900	29,760	28,720	2,670	2,990	2,170	8.9	10.0	7.6
Dillon	13,830	13,860	13,940	1,520	1,590	1,290	11.0	11.5	9.3
Dorchester	38,370	38,400	38,070	2,440	2,350	1,610	6.4	6.1	4.2
Edgefield	7,020	7,080	6,840	400	550	480	5.7	7.7	7.0
Fairfield	9,870	9,590	10,040	970	1,360	1,230	9.8	14.2	12.3
Florence MSA	59,710	60,200	58,970	4,170	4,430	3,230	7.0	7.4	5.5
Georgetown	24,150	24,640	22,060	2,260	2,700	2,040	9.3	10.9	9.2
Greenville	177,420	179,220	176,080	10,270	11,020	8,050	5.8	6.1	4.6
Greenwood	28,760	29,060	28,770	2,010	2,100	2,170	7.0	7.2	7.5
Hampton	7,230	7,250	7,170	750	770	550	10.4	10.7	7.7
Horry	79,160	77,990	72,990	7,260	9,570	5,890	9.2	12.3	8.1
Jasper	6,510	6,660	6,330	440	540	350	6.8	8.2	5.5
Kershaw	20,010	20,490	19,640	1,840	2,230	1,670	9.2	10.9	8.5
Lancaster	25,350	25,720	24,910	2,520	2,700	1,890	9.9	10.5	7.6
Laurens	23,950	24,310	24,650	1,920	1,860	1,720	8.0	7.6	7.0
Lee	9,120	9,220	9,040	660	730	590	7.3	7.9	6.5
Lexington	97,100	97,490	97,580	4,750	4,990	4,020	4.9	5.1	4.1
McCormick	3,020	3,040	3,270	370	390	520	12.1	12.9	15.9
Marion	14,990	15,010	15,800	2,260	2,120	1,770	15.1	14.1	11.2
Marlboro	12,000	12,070	12,450	1,400	1,460	1,350	11.6	12.1	10.8
Newberry	15,610	15,700	15,120	1,210	1,250	860	7.8	8.0	5.7
Oconee	29,240	29,530	30,020	2,530	2,560	2,400	8.7	8.7	8.0
Orangeburg	40,350	41,000	40,470	3,470	4,220	3,120	8.6	10.3	7.7
Pickens	49,460	49,920	49,490	2,700	2,860	2,480	5.5	5.7	5.0
Richland	145,460	145,760	145,060	8,010	8,100	5,820	5.5	5.6	4.0
Saluda	9,210	9,180	8,680	440	480	480	4.8	5.2	5.5
Spartanburg	114,660	115,280	117,020	6,550	6,490	8,350	5.7	5.6	7.1
Sumter	40,090	40,310	38,010	3,700	3,770	3,730	9.2	9.4	9.8
Union	14,230	14,380	14,520	1,280	1,360	2,030	9.0	9.5	14.0
Williamsburg	16,560	16,710	16,570	1,430	1,610	1,540	8.6	9.6	9.3
York	73,160	73,200	71,990	5,420	5,110	4,490	7.4	7.0	6.2
Charleston MSA	240,800	241,320	238,340	15,990	15,740	10,190	6.6	6.5	4.3
Columbia MSA	242,560	243,250	242,630	12,760	13,090	9,840	5.3	5.4	4.1
Greenville MSA	341,540	344,420	342,590	19,520	20,370	18,880	5.7	5.9	5.5
South Carolina (seas. adj.)	**1,746,400**	**1,773,700**	**1,730,400**	**122,000**	**121,100**	**106,000**	**7.0**	**6.8**	**6.1**

Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment in South Carolina
March 1992

	Mar. 1992	Feb. 1992	Mar. 1991	Net Changes From: Feb. 1992	Net Changes From: Mar. 1991
Total Nonagricultural Employment	**1,494,600**	**1,483,500**	**1,513,800**	**+11,100**	**-19,200**
Total Private	**1,205,700**	**1,196,600**	**1,221,200**	**+10,100**	**-15,500**
Mining	**1,800**	**1,800**	**1,900**	**0**	**-100**
Construction	**81,900**	**80,700**	**93,900**	**+1,200**	**-12,000**
Heavy Construction, Excluding Building	10,000	10,000	11,300	0	-1,300
Highway and Street Construction	2,400	2,400	2,700	0	-300
Heavy Construction, Excluding Highway	7,600	7,600	8,600	0	-1,000
Special Trade Contractors	41,600	41,100	44,900	+500	-3,300
Plumbing, Heating, Air Conditioning	10,300	10,100	11,200	+200	-900
Electrical Work	9,700	9,700	10,000	0	-300
Manufacturing	**364,800**	**365,800**	**366,200**	**-1,000**	**-1,400**
Durable Goods	126,800	127,500	130,500	-700	-3,700
Lumber and Wood Products	13,900	13,800	14,000	+100	-100
Sawmills and Planing Mills	4,300	4,300	4,500	0	-200
Millwork, Plywood, and Structural Members	2,900	2,800	3,000	+100	-100
Furniture and Fixtures	4,000	4,000	4,000	0	0
Household Furniture	2,900	3,000	2,800	-100	+100
Stone, Clay, and Glass Products	9,200	9,200	9,600	0	-400
Glass and Glassware, Pressed or Blown	3,100	3,100	3,300	0	-200
Concrete, Gypsum, and Plaster Products	2,400	2,400	2,600	0	-200
Primary Metal Industries	9,100	9,100	8,900	0	+200
Fabricated Metal Products	15,800	16,000	16,900	-200	-1,100
Cutlery, Hand Tools, and Hardware	1,900	1,900	2,500	0	-600
Fabricated Structural Metal Products	6,100	6,200	6,400	-100	-300
Industrial Machinery and Equipment	34,700	34,900	36,200	-200	-1,500
Metalworking Machinery	5,900	5,900	6,400	0	-500
Special Industry Machinery	5,300	5,300	5,600	0	-300
General Industrial Machinery	7,300	7,300	7,600	0	-300
Electronic and Other Electric Equipment	21,400	21,500	21,500	-100	-100
Electrical Industrial Apparatus	2,200	2,200	2,500	0	-300
Household Appliances	3,300	3,200	2,900	+100	+400
Electronic Components and Accessories	7,200	7,300	7,100	-100	+100
Transportation Equipment	9,700	9,700	10,200	0	-500
Instruments and Related Products	5,500	5,400	5,700	+100	-200
Miscellaneous Manufacturing Industries	3,500	3,900	3,500	-400	0
Nondurable Goods	238,000	238,300	235,700	-300	+2,300
Food and Kindred Products	14,200	14,500	14,000	-300	+200
Meat Products	5,300	5,200	5,300	+100	0
Beverages	2,000	2,100	2,100	-100	-100
Textile Mill Products	92,200	92,600	92,900	-400	-700
Broadwoven Fabric Mills, Cotton	23,500	23,700	24,900	-200	-1,400
Broadwoven Fabric Mills, Manmade	22,700	22,800	23,100	-100	-400
Knitting Mills	7,100	7,100	7,000	0	+100
Textile Finishing, Except Wool	15,000	15,200	14,400	-200	+600
Finishing Plants, Cotton	7,700	7,900	7,500	-200	+200
Finishing Plants, Manmade	6,500	6,600	6,300	-100	+200
Yarn and Thread Mills	9,800	9,700	9,800	+100	0
Yarn Spinning Mills	9,100	9,100	9,300	0	-200
Miscellaneous Textile Goods	6,900	7,000	6,900	-100	0
Apparel and Other Textile Products	37,900	37,900	36,900	0	+1,000
Men's and Boys' Furnishings	9,900	9,700	8,900	+200	+1,000
Men's and Boys' Shirts	5,300	5,300	5,000	0	+300
Women's and Misses' Outerwear	11,800	11,800	11,800	0	0
Women's and Misses' Blouses and Shirts	3,500	3,400	3,600	+100	-100
Women's and Children's Undergarments	1,800	1,800	1,700	0	+100
Girls and Children's Outerwear	1,900	2,100	2,100	-200	-200
Miscellaneous Apparel and Accessories	2,100	2,100	2,100	0	0
Miscellaneous Fabricated Textile Products	9,500	9,700	9,800	-200	-300

Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment in South Carolina (continued)

	Mar. 1992	Feb. 1992	Mar. 1991	Net Changes From: Feb. 1992	Mar. 1991
Paper and Allied Products	17,400	17,200	17,100	+200	+300
Paperboard Mills	3,100	3,100	3,200	0	-100
Paperboard Containers and Boxes	5,900	5,800	5,900	+100	0
Miscellaneous Converted Paper Products	4,800	4,800	4,600	0	+200
Printing and Publishing	11,300	11,300	11,700	0	-400
Newspapers	4,200	4,200	4,300	0	-100
Commercial Printing	4,600	4,600	4,800	0	-200
Chemicals and Allied Products	41,200	41,000	39,800	+200	+1,400
Plastics Materials and Synthetics	15,100	15,000	14,600	+100	+500
Industrial Organic Chemicals	3,200	3,200	3,100	0	+100
Rubber and Miscellaneous Plastics Products	23,000	22,800	22,500	+200	+500
Fabricated Rubber Products, Not Elsewhere Classified	3,000	3,000	2,800	0	+200
Misc. Plastics Products, Not Elsewhere Classified	10,000	9,900	9,800	+100	+200
Transportation and Public Utilities	**63,400**	**63,400**	**65,500**	**0**	**-2,100**
Trucking and Warehousing	19,400	19,500	19,400	-100	0
Water Transportation	3,500	3,700	3,400	-200	+100
Communications	13,100	13,000	14,000	+100	-900
Telephone Communications	8,500	8,500	9,500	0	-1,000
Electric, Gas, and Sanitary Services	15,600	15,600	16,400	0	-800
Electric Services	8,800	8,800	9,500	0	-700
Combination Utility Services	4,300	4,300	4,200	0	+100
Wholesale and Retail Trade	**328,100**	**324,300**	**337,000**	**+3,800**	**-8,900**
Wholesale Trade	56,600	57,200	59,200	-600	-2,600
Wholesale Trade—Durable Goods	31,300	31,600	32,400	-300	-1,100
Machinery, Equipment, and Supplies	9,000	9,200	9,600	-200	-600
Wholesale Trade—Nondurable Goods	25,300	25,600	26,800	-300	-1,500
Groceries and Related Products	8,500	8,700	9,200	-200	-700
Groceries, General Line	4,300	4,300	4,400	0	-100
Petroleum and Petroleum Products	3,300	3,300	3,300	0	0
Retail Trade	271,500	267,100	277,800	+4,400	-6,300
Building Materials and Garden Supplies	11,000	10,800	11,500	+200	-500
Lumber and Other Building Materials	6,200	6,200	6,100	0	+100
General Merchandise Stores	33,600	34,000	35,200	-400	-1,600
Food Stores	51,400	50,900	50,200	+500	+1,200
Grocery Stores	48,500	47,900	47,400	+600	+1,100
Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate	**65,400**	**65,200**	**65,800**	**+200**	**-400**
Depository Institutions	22,200	22,200	22,700	0	-500
Commercial Banks	15,200	15,200	15,500	0	-300
National Commercial Banks	9,000	9,000	9,400	0	-400
Insurance Carriers	13,300	13,300	13,100	0	+200
Life Insurance	5,500	5,500	5,400	0	+100
Services	**300,300**	**294,400**	**290,900**	**+5,900**	**+9,400**
Hotels and Other Lodging Places	21,900	19,800	23,000	+2,100	-1,100
Health Services	63,700	63,600	60,500	+100	+3,200
Nursing and Personal Care Facilities	12,200	12,100	11,700	+100	+500
Hospitals	23,000	22,900	21,500	+100	+1,500
Educational Services	27,000	26,800	23,300	+200	+3,700
Colleges and Universities	16,000	15,700	13,800	+300	+2,200
Total Government	**288,900**	**287,900**	**292,600**	**+1,000**	**-3,700**
Total Federal Government	35,900	36,600	39,700	-700	-3,800
Total State and Local Government	253,000	251,300	252,900	+1,700	+100
Total State Government	102,500	101,600	99,200	+900	+3,300
State Government Education	43,900	43,300	40,500	+600	+3,400
Other State Government	58,600	58,300	58,700	+300	-100
Total Local Government	150,500	149,700	153,700	+800	-3,200
Local Government Education	81,800	81,300	87,600	+500	-5,800
Other Local Government	68,700	68,400	66,100	+300	+2,600

Seasonally Adjusted Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment in South Carolina
March 1992

	Mar. 1992	Feb. 1992	Mar. 1991	Net Change From: Feb. 1992	Net Change From: Mar. 1991
Total Nonagricultural Employment	**1,502,000**	**1,505,500**	**1,521,500**	**-3,500**	**-19,500**
Total Private	**1,219,000**	**1,222,200**	**1,234,900**	**-3,200**	**-15,900**
Construction	**82,500**	**82,600**	**94,600**	**-100**	**-12,100**
Manufacturing	**366,700**	**367,500**	**367,800**	**-800**	**-1,100**
Durable Goods	126,900	127,600	130,600	-700	-3,700
Lumber and Wood Products	13,900	13,900	14,000	0	-100
Furniture and Fixtures	4,100	4,100	4,100	0	0
Stone, Clay, and Glass Products	9,200	9,300	9,600	-100	-400
Primary Metal Industries	9,100	9,200	8,900	-100	+200
Fabricated Metal Products	15,800	16,000	16,900	-200	-1,100
Industrial Machinery and Equipment	34,600	34,800	36,000	-200	-1,400
Special Industry Machinery	5,300	5,300	5,600	0	-300
Electronic and Other Electric Equipment	21,600	21,600	21,700	0	-100
Nondurable Goods	239,800	239,900	237,300	-100	+2,500
Food and Kindred Products	14,400	14,600	14,200	-200	+200
Textile Mill Products	92,900	93,100	93,500	-200	-600
Broadwoven Fabric Mills, Cotton	23,600	23,800	25,000	-200	-1,400
Broadwoven Fabric Mills, Manmade	22,900	23,000	23,200	-100	-300
Knitting Mills	7,200	7,200	7,000	0	+200
Textile Finishing, Except Wool	15,000	15,300	14,400	-300	+600
Yarn and Thread Mills	9,800	9,800	9,800	0	0
Apparel and Other Textile Products	38,100	38,000	37,000	+100	+1,100
Men's and Boys' Furnishings	9,900	9,800	8,900	+100	+1,000
Women's and Misses' Outerwear	11,700	11,700	11,700	0	0
Miscellaneous Fabricated Textile Products	9,600	9,900	9,900	-300	-300
Paper and Allied Products	17,500	17,300	17,200	+200	+300
Printing and Publishing	11,400	11,400	11,800	0	-400
Chemicals and Allied Products	41,500	41,400	40,100	+100	+1,400
Plastic Materials and Synthetics	15,200	15,100	14,700	+100	+500
Transportation and Public Utilities	**63,800**	**64,000**	**66,000**	**-200**	**-2,200**
Trucking and Warehousing	19,700	19,900	19,700	-200	0
Communication	13,200	13,100	14,100	+100	-900
Electric, Gas, and Sanitary Services	15,500	15,500	16,300	0	-800
Wholesale and Retail Trade	**335,100**	**337,000**	**344,300**	**-1,900**	**-9,200**
Wholesale Trade	56,900	57,800	59,500	-900	-2,600
Retail Trade	278,200	279,200	284,700	-1,000	-6,500
General Merchandise Stores	34,500	35,100	36,200	-600	-1,700
Food Stores	52,900	52,500	51,600	+400	+1,300
Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate	**66,000**	**66,600**	**66,500**	**-600**	**-500**
Insurance Carriers	13,400	13,500	13,200	-100	+200
Services	**303,100**	**302,700**	**293,600**	**+400**	**+9,500**
Hotels and Other Lodging Places	22,900	22,600	24,100	+300	-1,200
Educational Services	26,000	25,500	22,400	+500	+3,600
Total Government	**283,000**	**283,300**	**286,200**	**-300**	**-3,200**
Total Federal Government	35,900	36,900	39,700	-1,000	-3,800
Total State Government	101,400	101,000	98,000	+400	+3,400
Total Local Government	145,700	145,400	148,900	+300	-3,200

Estimated Number of Manufacturing Production Workers Employment and Average Hours and Earnings in South Carolina
March 1992

	Manufacturing Production Workers Employment				
				Net Change From:	
	Mar. 1992	Feb. 1992	Mar. 1991	Feb. 1992	Mar. 1991
Manufacturing	**274,100**	**274,900**	**275,700**	**-800**	**-1,600**
Durable Goods	**94,300**	**94,900**	**97,200**	**-600**	**-2,900**
Lumber and Wood Products	11,300	11,200	11,300	+100	0
Furniture and Fixtures	2,700	2,700	2,700	0	0
Stone, Clay, and Glass Products	7,200	7,200	7,600	0	-400
Fabricated Metal Products	10,900	11,100	11,700	-200	-800
Industrial Machinery and Equipment	25,400	25,500	26,500	-100	-1,100
Special Industry Machinery	3,500	3,500	3,800	0	-300
Electronic and Other Electric Equipment	16,100	16,200	16,100	-100	0
Instruments and Related Products	4,200	4,200	4,400	0	-200
Nondurable Goods	**179,800**	**180,000**	**178,500**	**-200**	**+1,300**
Food and Kindred Products	9,900	10,000	9,800	-100	+100
Textile Mill Products	78,900	79,400	79,800	-500	-900
Broadwoven Fabric Mills, Cotton	21,700	21,900	23,000	-200	-1,300
Broadwoven Fabric Mills, Manmade	19,800	19,800	20,100	0	-300
Knitting Mills	6,200	6,200	6,200	0	0
Textile Finishing, Except Wool	12,000	12,200	11,700	-200	+300
Yarn and Thread Mills	8,400	8,300	8,400	+100	0
Apparel and Other Textile Products	31,200	31,200	30,500	0	+700
Men's and Boys' Furnishings	8,800	8,700	7,900	+100	+900
Women's and Misses' Outerwear	9,500	9,500	9,500	0	0
Paper and Allied Products	11,900	11,800	11,700	+100	+200
Printing and Publishing	6,100	6,100	6,200	0	-100
Chemicals and Allied Products	23,900	23,900	23,100	0	+800

	Average Weekly Earnings ($)			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings ($)		
	Mar. 1992	Feb. 1992	Mar. 1991	Mar. 1992	Feb. 1992	Mar. 1991	Mar. 1992	Feb. 1992	Mar. 1991
Manufacturing	**389.38**	**388.44**	**372.37**	**41.6**	**41.5**	**41.1**	**9.36**	**9.36**	**9.06**
Durable Goods	**408.74**	**404.07**	**380.80**	**42.8**	**42.4**	**41.8**	**9.55**	**9.53**	**9.11**
Lumber and Wood Products	338.05	331.33	320.19	42.9	42.1	41.8	7.88	7.87	7.66
Furniture and Fixtures	289.98	293.25	263.93	40.5	40.9	38.7	7.16	7.17	6.82
Stone, Clay, and Glass Products	440.26	437.30	430.15	41.3	41.1	41.4	10.66	10.64	10.39
Fabricated Metal Products	399.27	397.07	380.28	40.7	40.6	41.2	9.81	9.78	9.23
Industrial Machinery and Equipment	437.31	434.85	407.41	43.0	42.8	41.7	10.17	10.16	9.77
Special Industry Machinery	445.01	439.64	446.76	43.8	43.4	44.9	10.16	10.13	9.95
Electronic and Other Elect. Equip.	387.39	382.50	368.51	42.9	42.5	42.8	9.03	9.00	8.61
Instruments and Related Products	395.60	386.76	370.08	44.6	44.0	43.9	8.87	8.79	8.43
Nondurable Goods	**380.18**	**380.07**	**367.52**	**41.1**	**41.0**	**40.7**	**9.25**	**9.27**	**9.03**
Food and Kindred Products	335.36	332.93	317.49	41.3	40.9	39.1	8.12	8.14	8.12
Textile Mill Products	360.91	360.50	339.73	41.2	41.2	40.3	8.76	8.75	8.43
Broadwoven Fabric Mills, Cotton	363.37	366.95	348.13	40.6	41.0	40.2	8.95	8.95	8.66
Broadwoven Fabric Mills, Manmade	382.42	384.17	349.87	40.9	41.0	39.4	9.35	9.37	8.88
Knitting Mills	313.92	304.55	285.52	41.8	41.1	39.6	7.51	7.41	7.21
Textile Finishing, Except Wool	370.52	365.71	364.98	42.2	41.7	42.0	8.78	8.77	8.69
Yarn and Thread Mills	312.62	307.93	299.30	40.6	40.2	39.8	7.70	7.66	7.52
Apparel and Other Textile Products	240.67	240.41	225.67	37.9	38.1	37.3	6.35	6.31	6.05
Men's and Boys' Furnishings	251.13	250.83	226.77	39.3	39.5	38.5	6.39	6.35	5.89
Women's and Misses' Outerwear	210.92	211.07	204.12	37.8	38.1	37.8	5.58	5.54	5.40
Paper and Allied Products	607.81	602.46	586.18	45.7	45.4	45.3	13.30	13.27	12.94
Printing and Publishing	379.65	378.28	371.28	38.7	38.6	39.0	9.81	9.80	9.52
Chemicals and Allied Products	509.57	505.06	504.15	41.7	41.5	41.7	12.22	12.17	12.09

Agricultural News

Approximately **1,955** seasonal farmworkers were employed throughout South Carolina in March.

Weather Conditions...

Although early warm temperatures resulted in some planting ahead of schedule, other planting was delayed by cooler temperatures in the last week of March. The state received adequate moisture; however, concerns lingered over the possibility of frost damage. By the week ending March 29, 1992, soil moisture ratings were 5% short, 93% adequate, and 2% surplus. An average of 4.5 days were available for fieldwork activities.

Field Crops...

Corn planting was ahead of normal, with the overall crop condition as rated fair to good. Corn growers, anticipating higher prices in March, due to low national carry-over stocks, increased plantings by 30,000 acres. Although a 2% increase in production of tobacco is expected this year, very little of the crop was planted by the third week in March. However, the tobacco crop condition was rated fair to good.

Fruits and Vegetables...

While the planting of cantaloup, watermelon, tomato, and cucumber crops was behind the normal pace for the time of year, snap bean planting was ahead of normal. The condition of this year's peach crop, as well as the cantaloup, watermelon, and tomato crops was rated as fair. Cucumber and snap bean crop conditions were rated as fair to good.

Small Grains and Pastures...

Small grains were progressing well at the end of March and their overall condition was rated as fair to good. The statewide condition of pastures was also rated as fair to good.

South Carolina Weekly Crop Statistics
Week Ending March 29, 1992

Crop	Phase	Percent Completed (%) Current	Year Ago
Cantaloups	Planted	10	21
Corn	Planted	25	21
Cucumbers	Planted	15	30
Oats	Headed	2	1
Snap Beans	Planted	17	15
Tobacco	Planted	2	2
Tomatoes	Planted	26	34
Watermelons	Planted	20	29

Metropolitan Statistical Area News

Summary

Seasonal job growth in trade and services caused total nonfarm employment in the state's major metropolitan statistical areas to increase 2,800 during March, pushing the total job count to 777,200. Other job gains, though smaller, were recorded in construction; finance, insurance, and real estate; and government. Manufacturing, and transportation and public utilities both recorded job losses over the month.

Charleston MSA

(includes Berkeley, Charleston, and Dorchester counties)

Charleston's nonfarm employment grew by 900 in March, largely the result of seasonal increases in trade and services. Each of these major divisions gained 600 jobs as travel and tourism activity gained momentum. Trade's growth occurred mainly in eating and drinking places, while services experienced increases in hotels and lodging places. Warmer weather along with lower interest rates combined to spur construction to a 200-job increase over the month. Tempering the employment growth in Charleston were losses in the area's manufacturing and public sectors. Factory jobs declined 100 in March following the trend over much of the state. Government jobs declined 400 as civilian employees were released from military installations in the area.

Despite higher nonfarm employment levels, Charleston's unemployment climbed 0.1 percentage point to 6.6%. Within the area, Berkeley County's rate stood at 6.8%, followed by Charleston County at 6.7% and Dorchester County at 6.4%.

Columbia MSA

(includes Lexington and Richland counties)

Columbia's nonfarm employment level jumped 1,100 in March as payroll increases were recorded in both the public and private sectors. The government workforce advanced 700 as bus drivers, substitute teachers, and work-study students were added to the education payrolls. Private sector employment rose 400, entirely on the strength of seasonal gains in trade and services. Trade (+300) boasted increased payrolls in eating and drinking places, general merchandise stores, and food stores, while services advanced in private schools. Finance, insurance, and real estate posted a modest gain of 100 over the month. On the downside, factory jobs declined 200 as layoffs reduced the job count in lumber, wood, and furniture products, primary metals, and chemicals. Construction, which normally picks up momentum in early spring, remained unchanged from the February level.

Columbia's unemployment continued to stay well below that of the other two metro areas as its jobless declined from 5.4% to 5.3% in March. Richland County's rate stood at 5.5% in March compared to Lexington County's rate of 4.9%.

Greenville-Spartanburg MSA

(includes Greenville, Pickens, and Spartanburg counties)

Nonfarm employment in the Greenville-Spartanburg metro area rose 800 in March as seasonal gains were recorded in trade and services. Increased employment in eating and drinking places boosted trade by 400, while increases in business services led to payroll advances in the service sector. Modest gains of 100 each were recorded in transportation and public utilities; finance, insurance, and real estate; and government. Construction employment remained flat during March as the seasonal surge expected this time of year did not materialize. Jobs in the area's factories continued to be plagued by layoffs and plant closings with another 300 jobs being lost. Manufacturing job losses were widespread among both durable and nondurable sectors.

Unemployment in the Greenville-Spartanburg area dropped in March from 5.9% to 5.7%. Greenville County experienced the highest rate in the tri-county area at 5.8%. Spartanburg County followed with a jobless rate of 5.7%. Pickens County's rate was 5.5%.

Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment in the Major Metropolitan Statistical Areas
March 1992

	Greenville			Columbia			Charleston		
	Mar. 1992	Feb. 1992	Mar. 1991	Mar. 1992	Feb. 1992	Mar. 1991	Mar. 1992	Feb. 1992	Mar. 1991
Total Nonagricultural Employment	**330,800**	**330,000**	**330,200**	**242,200**	**241,100**	**244,900**	**204,200**	**203,300**	**206,200**
Total Private	**285,500**	**284,800**	**285,900**	**174,600**	**174,200**	**174,800**	**148,800**	**147,500**	**151,200**
Construction and Mining	**22,200**	**22,200**	**24,900**	**11,500**	**11,500**	**12,900**	**13,300**	**13,100**	**14,700**
Special Trade Contractors	10,400	10,300	10,600						
Manufacturing	**94,400**	**94,700**	**94,800**	**25,900**	**26,100**	**26,500**	**20,300**	**20,400**	**21,100**
Durable Goods	32,400	32,600	33,000	11,800	11,900	12,400	11,000	11,000	11,800
Lumber and Wood Products	1,300	1,300	1,400	600	700	600	1,900	1,900	2,300
Stone, Clay, and Glass Products							800	800	800
Primary Metal Industries and Fabricated Metal Products	6,000	6,000	6,200	3,900	3,900	4,000	2,100	2,100	2,300
Industrial Machinery and Equip.	13,000	13,100	13,300	2,800	2,800	3,100	2,700	2,700	2,800
Metalworking Machinery	2,500	2,500	2,500						
Special Industry Machinery	3,800	3,800	4,300						
Computer and Office Equipment				1,100	1,100	1,300			
Transportation Equipment							1,800	1,800	1,900
Electronic and Other Electric Equip.	6,400	6,500	6,600	1,900	2,000	1,700			
Nondurable Goods	62,000	62,100	61,800	14,100	14,200	14,100	9,300	9,400	9,300
Food and Kindred Products	2,300	2,300	2,500	1,400	1,400	1,400			
Textile Mill Products	28,000	28,100	27,000	1,800	1,800	1,700	2,400	2,500	2,400
Broadwoven Fabric Mills, Cotton	9,100	9,100	8,700						
Broadwoven Fabric Mills, Man.	7,000	7,000	6,300						
Knitting Mills	1,100	1,100	1,100						
Textile Finishing, except Wool	3,100	3,200	3,400						
Carpets and Rugs	2,000	2,000	2,000						
Yarn and Thread Mills	2,600	2,600	2,400						
Apparel and Other Textile Products	6,200	6,300	6,800	1,500	1,500	1,600			
Men's and Boys' Furnishings	700	600	600						
Women's and Children's Outer and Underwear	2,700	2,700	3,200						
Paper and Allied Products	5,100	5,100	4,900	2,200	2,200	2,000	1,900	1,900	1,800
Misc. Converted Paper Products	3,700	3,700	3,500						
Printing and Publishing				2,500	2,500	2,500			
Chemicals and Allied Products	7,800	7,800	8,100	2,600	2,700	2,700	1,900	1,800	1,800
Plastics Materials and Synthetics	4,000	4,000	4,100						
Transportation and Public Utilities	**14,000**	**13,900**	**14,500**	**10,400**	**10,600**	**11,000**	**10,500**	**10,500**	**11,000**
Communications				3,200	3,200	3,500			
Wholesale and Retail Trade	**77,200**	**76,800**	**76,800**	**54,400**	**54,100**	**54,100**	**48,800**	**48,200**	**49,700**
Wholesale Trade	18,200	18,200	18,500	12,800	12,900	12,900	8,000	8,100	8,400
Retail Trade	59,000	58,600	58,300	41,600	41,200	41,200	40,800	40,100	41,300
General Merchandise Stores	6,900	6,900	6,800	5,500	5,400	5,400			
Food Stores				6,300	6,200	5,900			
Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate	**12,400**	**12,300**	**12,500**	**19,800**	**19,700**	**19,400**	**7,500**	**7,500**	**7,900**
Insurance Carriers				6,300	6,400	5,900			
Services	**65,300**	**64,900**	**62,400**	**52,600**	**52,200**	**50,900**	**48,400**	**47,800**	**46,800**
Health Services	12,900	12,900	12,400	10,500	10,500	10,100			
Hospitals	4,000	4,000	3,800						
Membership Organizations				3,300	3,300	3,000			
Total Government	**45,300**	**45,200**	**44,300**	**67,600**	**66,900**	**70,100**	**55,400**	**55,800**	**55,000**
Total Federal Government	2,100	2,100	2,100	8,200	8,200	8,000	17,100	17,700	19,000
Total State and Local Government	43,200	43,100	42,200	59,400	58,700	62,100	38,300	38,100	36,000
Total State Government	14,600	14,700	13,100	39,600	39,200	40,200	18,700	18,500	17,200
Total Local Government	28,600	28,400	29,100	19,800	19,500	21,900	19,600	19,600	18,800

Estimated Number of Manufacturing Production Workers and Average Hours and Earnings in Major Metropolitan Statistical Areas
March 1992

	Number of Production Workers			Average Hours Worked Per Week			Average Weekly Earnings (Dollars)			Average Hourly Earnings (Dollars)		
	Mar. 1992	Feb. 1992	Mar. 1991	Mar. 1992	Feb. 1992	Mar. 1991	Mar. 1992	Feb. 1992	Mar. 1991	Mar. 1992	Feb. 1992	Mar. 1991
Greenville												
Manufacturing	72,100	72,400	71,100	42.0	42.1	40.4	402.36	402.90	365.22	9.58	9.57	9.04
Durable Goods	23,000	23,200	23,400	44.4	44.2	42.0	455.54	452.17	407.40	10.26	10.23	9.70
Industrial Machinery and Equipment	9,500	9,500	9,800	45.6	45.8	43.6	498.41	500.14	456.93	10.93	10.92	10.48
Special Industry Machinery	2,500	2,500	2,800	46.1	45.8	44.7	466.99	462.58	442.08	10.13	10.10	9.89
Nondurable Goods	49,100	49,200	47,700	40.9	41.2	39.6	377.92	380.28	344.12	9.24	9.23	8.69
Textile Mill Products	24,700	24,800	23,200	40.1	40.4	39.2	359.30	361.18	332.81	8.96	8.94	8.49
Broadwoven Fabric Mills, Manmade	6,400	6,400	5,600	39.7	40.3	39.1	361.27	366.33	335.09	9.10	9.09	8.57
Knitting Mills	900	900	800	35.0	35.2	35.7	265.65	266.11	269.89	7.59	7.56	7.56
Textile Finishing, Except Wool	2,600	2,600	2,700	43.0	43.0	38.8	369.80	368.94	321.26	8.60	8.58	8.28
Apparel and Other Textile Products	5,200	5,200	5,500	39.1	39.2	37.7	255.32	255.98	225.82	6.53	6.53	5.99
Chemicals and Allied Products	5,000	5,000	5,200	43.0	43.0	41.7	512.99	512.13	474.96	11.93	11.91	11.39
Columbia												
Manufacturing	17,700	17,900	17,700	41.7	41.7	40.8	414.92	414.50	381.07	9.95	9.94	9.34
Durable Goods	7,800	7,900	8,000	40.7	40.5	40.3	378.92	375.84	361.49	9.31	9.28	8.97
Fabricated Metal Products	2,100	2,100	2,200	39.9	40.0	41.1	374.26	375.60	386.34	9.38	9.39	9.40
Industrial Machinery and Equipment	1,300	1,300	1,500	40.6	40.4	44.1	421.02	417.33	452.91	10.37	10.33	10.27
Nondurable Goods	9,900	10,000	9,700	42.6	42.6	41.3	444.32	444.32	397.72	10.43	10.43	9.63
Textile Mill Products	1,700	1,700	1,600	42.9	42.6	37.3	383.96	380.84	326.75	8.95	8.94	8.76
Apparel and Other Textile Products	1,300	1,400	1,400	40.0	40.2	39.5	222.00	224.32	219.23	5.55	5.58	5.55
Charleston												
Manufacturing	14,400	14,400	14,400	41.7	41.4	40.4	402.82	397.85	376.12	9.66	9.61	9.31
Durable Goods	8,400	8,400	8,800	43.0	42.4	41.1	422.26	415.52	384.70	9.82	9.80	9.36
Nondurable Goods	6,000	6,000	5,600	40.0	39.9	39.2	376.40	372.67	361.82	9.41	9.34	9.23

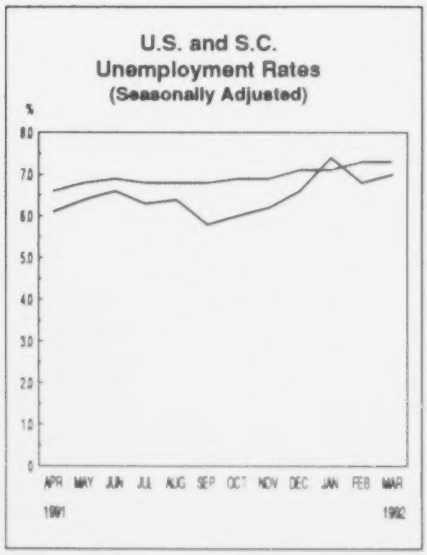
Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment in South Carolina Counties
March 1992

	Total Nonfarm Employment			Manufacturing Employment			Nonmanufacturing Employment		
	Mar. 1992	Feb. 1992	Mar. 1991	Mar. 1992	Feb. 1992	Mar. 1991	Mar. 1992	Feb. 1992	Mar. 1991
Abbeville	6,950	6,880	6,910	3,690	3,650	3,670	3,260	3,230	3,240
Aiken	60,400	59,900	60,700	24,200	24,000	22,900	36,200	35,900	37,800
Allendale	3,940	4,050	3,820	1,380	1,480	1,280	2,560	2,570	2,540
Anderson	53,100	52,800	53,200	18,400	18,200	19,000	34,700	34,600	34,200
Bamberg	4,510	4,500	4,450	1,580	1,580	1,550	2,930	2,920	2,900
Barnwell	7,280	7,330	7,000	2,780	2,810	2,710	4,500	4,520	4,290
Beaufort	34,970	34,740	32,830	940	930	1,110	34,030	33,810	31,720
Berkeley	25,800	25,800	26,400	6,600	6,700	7,000	19,200	19,100	19,400
Calhoun	3,640	3,610	3,530	1,590	1,590	1,520	2,050	2,020	2,010
Charleston	158,600	157,900	159,200	9,300	9,300	9,500	149,300	148,600	149,700
Cherokee	17,890	17,810	17,950	8,640	8,630	8,930	9,250	9,180	9,020
Chester	11,290	11,160	11,280	5,670	5,600	5,710	5,620	5,560	5,570
Chesterfield	14,190	14,260	14,230	8,170	8,230	8,180	6,020	6,030	6,050
Clarendon	6,500	6,470	6,700	1,390	1,360	1,490	5,110	5,110	5,210
Colleton	10,000	10,000	9,850	2,040	2,100	2,090	7,960	7,900	7,760
Darlington	22,420	21,940	21,630	7,560	7,510	7,580	14,860	14,430	14,050
Dillon	8,770	8,740	8,950	3,220	3,180	3,290	5,550	5,560	5,660
Dorchester	19,800	19,600	20,600	4,400	4,400	4,600	15,400	15,200	16,000
Edgefield	4,550	4,480	4,320	1,750	1,680	1,750	2,800	2,800	2,570
Fairfield	7,310	6,700	7,180	2,180	1,580	2,080	5,130	5,120	5,100
Florence	55,100	55,100	55,000	13,400	13,400	13,300	41,700	41,700	41,700
Georgetown	18,470	18,380	16,770	4,940	4,920	4,530	13,530	13,460	12,240
Greenville	189,100	188,500	189,800	46,300	46,400	46,200	142,800	142,100	143,600
Greenwood	28,860	28,870	28,590	10,650	10,660	10,700	18,210	18,210	17,890
Hampton	5,220	5,210	5,300	1,540	1,530	1,650	3,680	3,680	3,650
Horry	68,140	64,520	62,980	6,040	5,990	5,620	62,100	58,530	57,360
Jasper	3,760	3,770	3,670	420	420	380	3,340	3,350	3,290
Kershaw	16,580	16,540	16,310	5,800	5,790	5,740	10,780	10,750	10,570
Lancaster	17,940	17,910	18,020	7,280	7,320	7,510	10,660	10,590	10,510
Laurens	19,700	19,910	20,380	7,200	7,160	7,230	12,500	12,750	13,150
Lee	3,730	3,740	3,680	1,240	1,240	1,210	2,490	2,500	2,470
Lexington	60,000	59,800	59,700	12,100	12,200	12,700	47,900	47,600	47,000
McCormick	2,160	2,150	2,270	630	620	620	1,530	1,530	1,650
Marion	11,780	11,890	12,970	5,050	5,180	5,380	6,730	6,710	7,590
Marlboro	8,540	8,510	8,880	3,650	3,610	4,020	4,890	4,900	4,860
Newberry	11,910	11,890	11,740	4,890	4,890	5,010	7,020	7,000	6,730
Oconee	23,640	23,690	24,370	10,000	10,060	10,480	13,640	13,630	13,890
Orangeburg	30,550	30,130	30,690	9,390	8,960	9,490	21,160	21,170	21,200
Pickens	35,700	35,700	34,900	11,300	11,400	11,400	24,400	24,300	23,500
Richland	182,200	181,300	185,200	13,800	13,900	13,800	168,400	167,400	171,400
Saluda	4,210	4,170	3,890	2,030	2,000	1,760	2,180	2,170	2,130
Spartanburg	106,000	105,800	105,500	36,800	36,900	37,200	69,200	68,900	68,300
Sumter	34,960	34,910	32,720	9,600	9,570	8,880	25,360	25,340	23,840
Union	10,450	10,400	10,010	5,330	5,310	5,130	5,120	5,090	4,880
Williamsburg	10,730	10,710	10,550	5,030	5,010	4,800	5,700	5,700	5,750
York	48,200	47,800	48,400	13,500	13,700	13,700	34,700	34,100	34,700

Female Employment in South Carolina
March 1992

	Mar. 1992	Feb. 1992	Mar. 1991	Net Change From: Feb. 1992	Net Change From: Mar. 1991
Total Nonagricultural Employment	**732,100**	**725,800**	**736,100**	**+6,300**	**-4,000**
Total Private	**553,600**	**548,200**	**554,500**	**+5,400**	**-900**
Construction	**6,900**	**6,700**	**8,500**	**+200**	**-1,600**
Manufacturing	**149,000**	**149,400**	**149,500**	**-400**	**-500**
Durable Goods	41,200	41,500	42,600	-300	-1,400
Lumber and Wood Products	2,200	2,200	2,200	0	0
Fabricated Metal Products	3,200	3,300	3,500	-100	-300
Industrial Machinery and Equipment	10,600	10,600	11,100	0	-500
Electronic and Other Electric Equipment	11,400	11,400	11,400	0	0
Instruments and Related Products	3,300	3,200	3,500	+100	-200
Nondurable Goods	107,800	107,900	106,900	-100	+900
Food and Kindred Products	5,600	5,700	5,400	-100	+200
Textile Mill Products	40,900	41,000	41,100	-100	-200
Broadwoven Fabric Mills, Cotton	10,100	10,200	10,700	-100	-600
Broadwoven Fabric Mills, Manmade	10,100	10,200	10,400	-100	-300
Knitting Mills	5,100	5,100	5,100	0	0
Apparel and Other Textile Products	30,900	30,900	30,400	0	+500
Men's and Boys' Furnishings	8,800	8,700	8,000	+100	+800
Women's and Misses' Outerwear	10,300	10,300	10,300	0	0
Paper and Allied Products	3,800	3,800	3,800	0	0
Printing and Publishing	4,600	4,700	4,800	-100	-200
Chemicals and Allied Products	11,200	11,100	10,800	+100	+400
Rubber and Miscellaneous Plastics Products	10,700	10,700	10,500	0	+200
Transportation and Public Utilities	**15,600**	**15,500**	**16,200**	**+100**	**-600**
Communications	5,900	5,900	6,400	0	-500
Wholesale and Retail Trade	**165,000**	**162,700**	**169,400**	**+2,300**	**-4,400**
Wholesale Trade	15,400	15,600	16,100	-200	-700
Wholesale Trade—Durable Goods	7,300	7,400	7,600	-100	-300
Wholesale Trade—Nondurable Goods	8,100	8,200	8,500	-100	-400
Retail Trade	149,600	147,100	153,300	+2,500	-3,700
General Merchandise Stores	24,200	24,500	25,400	-300	-1,200
Food Stores	24,700	24,500	24,100	+200	+600
Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate	**43,000**	**43,000**	**43,300**	**0**	**-300**
Insurance Carriers	8,400	8,400	8,300	0	+100
Services	**174,000**	**170,800**	**167,200**	**+3,200**	**+6,800**
Hotels and Other Lodging Places	13,700	12,400	14,500	+1,300	-800
Health Services	53,400	53,400	50,800	0	+2,600
Hospitals	18,800	18,800	17,700	0	+1,100
Educational Services	17,900	17,800	15,500	+100	+2,400
Total Government	**178,500**	**177,600**	**181,600**	**+900**	**-3,100**
Total Federal Government	12,100	12,300	13,700	-200	-1,600
Total State and Local Government	166,400	165,300	167,900	+1,100	-1,500
Total State Government	63,300	62,800	61,700	+500	+1,600
State Government Education	21,100	20,800	19,400	+300	+1,700
Other State Government	42,200	42,000	42,300	+200	-100
Total Local Government	103,100	102,500	106,200	+600	-3,100
Local Government Education	64,600	64,200	69,200	+400	-4,600
Other Local Government	38,500	38,300	37,000	+200	+1,500

National News



Leading Indicators Edge Up... The index of leading economic indicators, which gauges the future health of the economy, crept up 0.3% in March to 147.9% of the 1982 average, from 147.6% in February. Four of the 11 indicators that make up the index contributed to March's increase, with rising consumer expectations leading the advance. Other positive factors were materials prices, inflation-adjusted contracts, plant and equipment orders, and vendor performance. The increase is an indication that continued growth is likely during the remainder of this year.

Unemployment Rate Holds Steady... The national unemployment rate, at 7.3%, remained unchanged in March. Total employment rose by 300,000 to 117.3 million, which was up 500,000 from March, 1991. The number of jobless remained at 9.2 million, 1.9% above the level of July, 1990, when the national recession started.

Nonfarm Employment Remains Unchanged... In March, the number of manufacturing jobs was essentially unchanged for the second consecutive month, following a five-month string of losses. Generally, small changes occurred among the component industries, the largest being a 6,000 pickup in the auto industry. Construction employment edged up 10,000 in March to 4.6 million. Employment in the service-producing sector was also unchanged, due to offsetting shifts within some of the component industries. Retail trade employment slid down following a large February increase, with most job losses occurring in eating and drinking places. Employment declines continued in wholesale trade, mainly in nondurable-good distribution. Jobs in the service industry were little changed in March despite continued growth in health services.

Inflation Up 0.5%... Inflation climbed 0.5% in March, the largest increase since October, 1990. That jump put the Consumer Price Index (All Urban Consumers) at 139.3, surpassing the February, 1991 level by 3.2%. All of the economy's major sectors showed monthly increases of at least 0.4%, with the rise in prices mainly concentrated in food, clothing, transportation and energy.

Sales Fall 0.4%... Retail sales fell 0.4% in March to $157.1 billion from a revised $157.7 billion in February, their first decline since October. Factors such as unusually cold weather and a late Easter, which delayed sales that usually occur in March, contributed to the drop. Auto sales were also slow during the month. Sales of durable and nondurable goods increased 0.1% and 0.2%, respectively.

U.S. Consumer Price Index (CPI)
All Urban Consumers

Base Year 1982-1984=100.0

	Mar. 1992	Feb. 1992	Mar. 1991
All Items	139.3	138.6	135.0

Industrial Output Up... Industrial production rose 0.3% in March to 107.2% of the 1987 average, from a revised 106.9% in February. The growth was mostly in utilities, posting a 2.1% increase. Manufacturing production rose, while mining output dropped 0.2% from last month. Industry used 78.1% of its capacity in March, up from 78.0% in February.

Consumer Confidence Rises... The Conference Board's Consumer Confidence Index leaped to 54.0 in March from a revised 47.3 in February and 50.4 in January (1985 =100). The index is based on a survey of consumers' expectations for future business conditions. The overall trend is consistent with the findings of the University of Michigan's index of consumer sentiment, which rose to 76.0 in February from 68.6 the month before. Improvement in the level of consumer expectations is encouraging, while consumer assessments of the present economic situation remain pessimistic.

Technical Notes

South Carolina's Employment Trends is prepared in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. The current month's estimates are preliminary while all previous data are subject to revision. Industries are classified according to the Standard Industrial Classification Manual, 1987. All estimates are projected from a first quarter 1991 benchmark.

Nonagricultural wage and salary employment estimates include all full- and part-time wage and salary employees who worked during or received pay for the pay period which includes the 12th of the month. Estimates measure the number of jobs by industry and reflect employment by place of work. Therefore, these data are not strictly comparable with the labor force data which represent persons by place of residence. Excluded from wage and salary estimates are proprietors, self-employed workers, private household employees, and unpaid family workers. A small percentage of wage and salary workers cannot be allocated to specific counties because of the nature of their jobs. Therefore, county data will not add to state totals.

Production worker estimates include full- and part-time employees working within manufacturing industries. Hours worked and earnings data are computed based on payroll figures for the week including the 12th of the month for production workers. Average hourly earnings are calculated on a gross basis, and are affected by such factors as premium pay for overtime and shift differential as well as changes in basic hourly and incentive rates of pay. Average weekly earnings are the product of weekly hours worked and hourly earnings.

Labor force data are adjusted to the Current Population Survey benchmark, and represent employment and unemployment by place of residence. These data are not comparable to the place-of-work industry employment series. Workers involved in labor disputes are counted as employed. Total employment in the labor force also includes agricultural workers, unpaid family workers, domestics, and self-employed. The unemployment rate is calculated by dividing total unemployment by the labor force, and is expressed as a percent. Because of the conceptual differences stated above, total employment may in some instances be lower than nonagricultural wage and salary employment.

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Contents...

State Overview ..... page 1
Civilian Labor Force Summary ..... page 2
Labor Force and Unemployment for Selected Cities ..... page 2
Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment in South Carolina ..... page 4
Seasonally Adjusted Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment in South Carolina ..... page 6
Manufacturing Production Workers Employment and Hours and Earnings in South Carolina ..... page 7
Agricultural News ..... page 8
Metropolitan Statistical Area News ..... page 9
Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment in MSA's ..... page 10
Manufacturing Production Workers Employment and Hours and Earnings in MSA's ..... page 11
Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment in Counties ..... page 12
Female Employment in South Carolina ..... page 13
National News ..... page 14